RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 8th December, 1998
17 Agrahayana, 1920 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Modernisation of Textile Technology

†*121. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise the textile technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRM RANA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a proposal of the Government of India which is under finalisation to facilitate modernisation through technological upgradation with a view to enhancing viability and competitiveness of the textile industry. Under the Scheme to Technology Upgradation Fund, an interest incentive of 5 percentage points on loan availed of from designated (Nodal) financial institutions/banks is proposed to be provided to the eligible units in the identified sectors of textile industry. The interest incentive would be reimbursed to these Nodal Financial Institutions through the budget provisions of the Ministry of Textiles.

Recession in Textile Industry

†*135. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:††
SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports in India have increased sharply during the first four months of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to save the domestic textile industry mired in crisis due to recession in demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid of the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The import of textile products during the first four months of the current year (i.e. April — July, 1998) amounted to US dollars 309.84 million (provisional) showing an increase of 8.7% over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) In the various WTO agreements, there are provisions whereby any member country, including India, can take safeguard measures against cheap imports. Government has been closely watching the import trends of textile products and if the need arises Government can initiate necessary steps for containing such imports.

A proposal is under consideration to launch a Fund for Technology Upgradation in identified sectors of the textile industry in order to make it more competitive. Another proposal is under consideration to launch a Technology Mission for cotton which would also benefit the textile industry. Government has also been taking measures to encourage exports of textile products. In the wake of depressed demand for cotton yarn in the international market, conditions governing production of cotton yarn for export have been relaxed.

Government have also constituted an Expert Committee to give recommendations for a new Textile Policy

श्री खान गुफ़रान ज़ाहिदी: क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताएंगे कि टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में मॉडर्नाइज़ेशन की बात आप कर रहे हैं, उस से तो सारे मिल बंद पड़े हुए हैं और उन में काम नहीं हो रहा है। कानपुर में काफी

†Question Nos. 121 and 135 were taken together.

††The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata.